

***Cassiope lycopodioides*** (Pallas) D. Don  
cassiope clubmoss  
Ericaceae (Heath Family)

**Status:** State Threatened  
**Rank:** G4S1

**General Description:** A matted perennial shrub with an opposite leaf arrangement. The shrub can reach heights of 2 to 7 in. (5 to 18 cm). The leaves are broader at the tip than at the base of the leaf. The leaves have a thin, flexible, almost translucent membrane on their margins. There are patches of small hairs on the underside of the leaf surface. The upper side of the leaf surface is covered with short, stiff hairs. The younger leaves have curly white to rust-colored hairs located at the stem tip. The stems are usually hairy. The long thin branches of the taxon are trailing or lying on the ground and do not root at the nodes. The white petals are fused together, giving the flower a bell shape. The flowers hang separately off of individual hairless stalks. Flower stalks are found towards the top of branches. The calyx of *C. lycopodioides* is red, and the bell-shaped flowers are white.

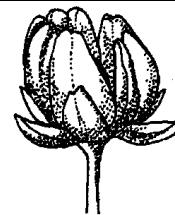
**Identification Tips:** Distinguishing characteristics of this species include the membranes on the leaves and the hair on both sides of the leaves. Other species of *Cassiope*, which grow in the same regions as *C. lycopodioides*, have hairless leaves. In *C. stelleriana* the leaves are flat on the leaves' upper surface, and the branches are somewhat hairy. The leaves of *C. mertensiana* are sharply creased on the bottom surface, and the leaves are in distinct rows. With *C. tetragona* there is a sharp crease on the upper surface of the leaf, and the leaves are in distinct rows. *C. tetragona* is also darker green and notably coarse.

**Phenology:** The Washington occurrence was identified during September.

**Range:** The taxon is found more commonly in circumboreal regions. Populations extend from the southern islands of Alaska down the coast through British Columbia. The occurrence in King County, Washington, is considered disjunct. Likely to be found at higher elevations, the Washington occurrence is found at around 6562 ft (2000 m).

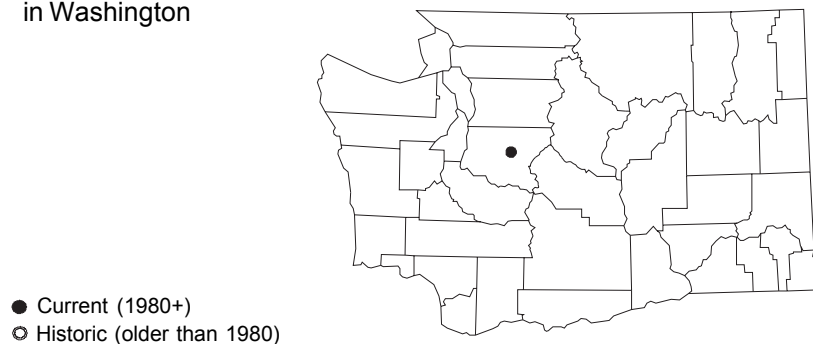
**Habitat:** The taxon has been found to grow on rock faces and near waterfalls or streams. It has been documented growing in "bald spots" upon mountain slopes at high elevations.

***Cassiope lycopodioides***  
cassiope clubmoss



©1998 Province of British Columbia.  
Illustration by Sherry Mitchell

Known distribution of  
*Cassiope lycopodioides*  
in Washington



***Cassiope lycopodioides***  
cassiope clubmoss



***Cassiope lycopodioides***  
cassiope clubmoss

**Ecology:** Found on rock faces and generally moist areas at high elevations.

**State Status Comments:** All necessary steps should be taken to preserve the lone occurrence in King County, Washington.

**Inventory Needs:** The known site should be revisited and confirmed. Further inventory in and around the King County occurrence is suggested.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Main threats to this species include recreational climbing and competition with other species. It is difficult for this species to compete with other species.

**References:**

- Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J. W. Thompson. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 4: Ericaceae through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press. 510 pp.
- Hulten, E. 1968. *Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories: A Manual of the Vascular Plants*. Stanford University Press. 1008 pp.